

These festive holiday baubles represent atoms that make up the mineral neighborite (NaMgF3). Haozhe Liu and colleagues of Carnegie's High Pressure Collaborative Access Team squeezed the mineral to more than 160,000 times atmospheric pressure at sea level. Neighborite is similar to minerals deep within the Earth's interior; by subjecting it to intense pressures, scientists learn about the structural transitions that occur under the vice-gripping conditions of the deep Earth. This rendering shows the mineral's structure at 98,000 atmospheres. Green spheres represent sodium, red spheres magnesium, and blue spheres fluorine. (Image courtesy Haozhe Liu.)

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"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

-Albert Einstein

Season's Greetings from the Carnegie Institution

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